

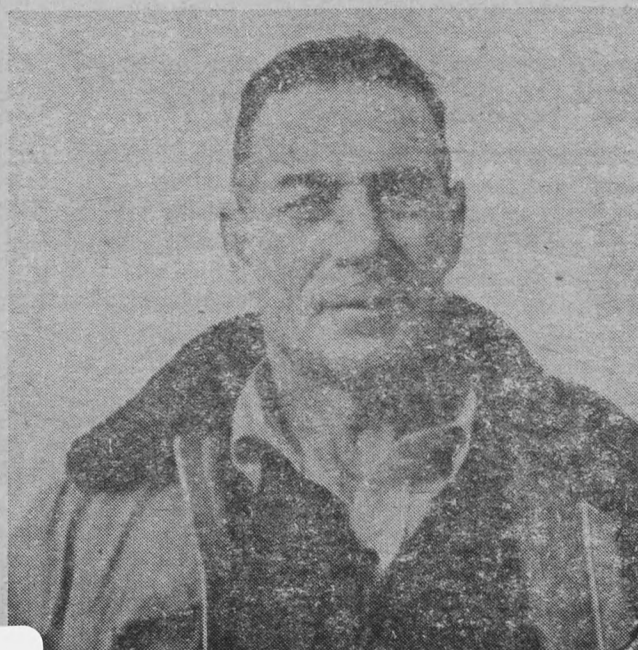
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THE ORGANIZED FARMER

February, 1958

No. 2, Vol. XVII



F.U.A. Sub-Director

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President's Report

SCOPE

This has been a month of regional and national meetings. A month to square away policy and to decide on those things upon which we can all agree and put aside those things on which we cannot agree at this time. Actually there was remarkable agreement across the country on national policy for agriculture. Never has the need for unity been more pressing, and never have we had as much unity, at least in recent times.

I.F.U.C. Executive Meets

An executive meeting of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council was held in Winnipeg in mid-January, in which the work of the Council for the balance of the winter was outlined. The preparation of extensive briefs on farm credit, crop insurance, soil and water conservation was agreed upon. These will be presented to the

new government before the next session begins. The preparation of various other briefs, and tentative plans to meet with various government boards was arranged. Tentative plans for the joint board meeting, to be held in Saskatoon in July, were also made.

Western Conference

This year delegates from the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union were present at the Western Conference. This is the first time for many years that the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union has been represented on this body, and it has come about because of their decision to re-enter the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture. The conference itself was harmonious and business was expedited quickly and easily. There was general agreement on the resolutions that were presented from the three provinces and these were disposed of with relatively little discussion.

C.F.A. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture was held in Montreal and, with the board meetings preceding and after the general session, took the entire week. Space

(Continued on page 5)

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EDITORIALS

Price Stabilization Bill

The Agricultural Price Stabilization Bill has now passed through the House of Commons, the Senate, and received Royal Assent.

There are some features of this Bill that we do not like. We feel that the calculation of the base price on a ten-year moving average is an unrealistic approach to what we feel sure is the intent of the Bill. We made repeated representations to the Government in regard to this matter and made various suggestions as to how the Bill might be made more acceptable, but we were not able to convince them that our plan was better. Most other aspects of our price support policy were incorporated in the Bill, such as forward prices, deficiency payments and direct negotiations between farmers organizations and the price support board.

It would only be fair at this point to state that we received every opportunity to make our arguments known to the government. The Minister of Agriculture and his assistants met with us on numerous occasions. The Prime Minister himself met with our committee on at least three occasions to discuss this matter. Considering how busy these people were at that particular time, I think it shows how interested they were in the farm problem that they took all this time to meet with representatives of agriculture.

One important feature of the new Bill is that it provides for an Advisory Committee to meet with Government to set prices each year. This means that farm people, through their organizations, are going to have some chance to sit down with government and to negotiate the prices that we are to receive. If this is to be done effectively, and if farm people are to gain the maximum benefits from this great forward step, then it is obvious that we must have strong farm unions. If we have, then great things can be accomplished, but if we let our organizations slip then we are going to be in difficulty and it will be a difficulty of our own making.

In the end the success of this legislation will depend on its administration. We have been repeatedly assured that it is the government's intention to see that it is administered in such a way that it does give farmers fair prices. Your farm unions have accepted this assurance and will co-operate in every way possible to bring this about.

Some Solid Achievements

About one year ago now the Farm Union sent a large and representative farm delegation to Ottawa to press for government action to help solve the farm problem. The welcome mat was not noticeable when we arrived. The then Prime Minister was too busy to see us. I think that when we left Ottawa it was the opinion of most that we had convinced members of parliament that there was a farm problem, but few of us believed that we would see much done about our program in the near future.

It is of interest to see what progress has been made. Here are some of the more important things we asked for, and what has been done about them.

In our Price Support program we asked that prices be set at a parity level. The new Bill says that cost of production will be taken into consideration, in setting prices. We are not satisfied that this meets all our requirements but it is a forward step.

We asked for forward prices. We have them.

We asked for deficiency payments — and they are provided for.

We asked for limitation on the amount of deficiency payments any one farmer could receive. This has not been done but we have the promise of the Minister that it will be done if it is necessary to discourage large corporation type farms.

We asked for cash advances. We have them.

We asked that grain be sold on credit for local currency when necessary to help underdeveloped countries. Some 25,000,000 bushels has been disposed of by this means so far this year.

We asked for a world food bank. The Prime Minister proposed at the recent NATO meeting that NATO undertake such a proposal amongst the countries concerned.

We asked for a realistic and complete farm credit scheme. Speaking at the C.F.A. annual meeting, the Minister of Agriculture said that this was the next major farm legislation that the government would introduce.

We asked for crop insurance. Three Provincial Governments have already set up a committee to study this, and the Federal Government has agreed to work with them in a joint effort between federal and provincial governments to make crop insurance a reality.

We asked for a soil and water conservation policy. It has been promised by the Minister, and he has said that they will not wait until the Senate Committee completes its investigation before legislation is introduced.

Yes, there has been a year of solid accomplishments. Those who took part in the delegation, those who served as information officers in Ottawa, those members of parliament and of government who supported our program, those local people who helped design the program, and those who have canvassed year after year and worked hard to keep our organization going, and the plain ordinary member who contributed only money—all these deserve credit for the job that has been done.

Ottawa Notes

Beginning last July, I along with many other officials of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, have had numerous interviews with members of the Federal Government. We have presented programs and policies of organized agriculture in considerable detail; at times we have been asked to express opinions on proposed action; and at times we have vigorously protested Government action, or lack of action. Certainly at no time in recent years have government and farmer worked together so closely.

This has not always been easy to do. Farm Union officials have had to work long hours to try and make up for time away from their own offices, and have had to study as never before in order to give sound and constructive advice. The job of a cabinet minister is never easy, and during the last few months it has

been especially hard work. Despite long hours in the House, in Cabinet meetings, and in the administration of their Departments, we have always had an opportunity to present our case. Sometimes it has been late at night, and other unorthodox hours, but always we have had a hearing. It would have been easy for them to have avoided these sessions but they did not choose to do so.

The interviews themselves were pleasant. One knew they were interested in our proposals and usually we knew very soon what action could be expected and when. We have not always been able to agree, but when we have not we have felt that it was an honest difference of opinion. Sometimes we did not have the information to back up our arguments, and sometimes we didn't have the answers to the problems that arose, but always we felt that our presentation and opinions were respected.

It is in such an environment that farm problems can be solved. If government and farmer continue to work hard, and work together, as they are learning to do, then the great problems of agriculture can be solved and we can have the kind of agriculture that we farmers have been working for these many years.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

(Continued from page 3)

would not permit an extensive review of what took place in this article. Actually the conference was well covered by the press and I imagine most of our members have read about it in the farm papers. Again there was general unanimity on most of the resolutions that were presented. To the best of my recollection the resolutions that had come from the western farm unions and through the Western Conference were all supported at the annual meeting of the C.F.A.

One item of particular interest at this meeting was the change in constitution that was agreed upon. This proposes that the annual meeting consist of 81 delegates from all across Canada. These delegates at the annual meeting would make the policy of the organization and the board would then carry out the policy. This is a very forward step in farm organization in Canada. While the 81 people may not be entirely representative of all the farmers in Canada it is certainly a great improvement over having only board people present at this meeting. If these delegates are carefully selected, and if they are all, or practically all, practising farmers, then I think we can look forward to better policies and programs that are more in

line with farm thinking than what we have had before. I might add that, while this particular item received a great deal of discussion, in the end it was unanimously supported by all provinces across Canada. Some still had some reservations as to how well it may work out, but personally I feel that once this has had a chance to function for a year or so that everyone will agree that it was an important forward step. It has been left to the provinces as to how these delegates are to be elected and I am hoping that, in Alberta, we can arrange to have these delegates elected at the annual meetings of the various organizations that will be concerned. One other great advantage of this proposal is that the delegates will have an opportunity to take back directly to farm people a first-hand account of what occurs at these national meetings.

* * *

Following the annual meeting the results were presented to the cabinet of the Federal Government in the form of a brief. The principal points in this brief were as follows:

1. The government was commended for the new price support legislation, and while it was regretted that they had not seen fit to place a formula taking into consideration cost of production in the Act, that the Act itself would do a great deal to help farmers all across Canada, providing it was administered in a sound and proper manner. The Federation pledged its support to see that the Act worked.

2. A sound policy of farm credit was advocated. This would include not only working capital but capital to purchase land, to erect buildings, to acquire machinery, and distress loans should they become necessary.

3. A national soil and water conservation program was advocated.

4. The government was commended for the work they are doing on surplus disposal of wheat, and were urged to take a full part in attempting to get the surplus disposal of foods put on a sound international basis.

* * *

All these proposals appeared to gain the support of government, and they were particularly interested in the proposal to distribute the surplus foodstuffs to underdeveloped nations.

Price Support Panel

I had the opportunity to appear on a CBC television panel on whether or not government should use taxpayers' money to support farm prices. A University of Manitoba economist and a lawyer opposed the idea, while I supported it. Since the sound arguments were on my side I didn't have much trouble upholding our policies.

Discussions In Ottawa

While in Ottawa, following the annual meet-

ing of the C.F.A., I had an opportunity to discuss with the Minister of Agriculture, his deputy, and some of his senior officials, various aspects of the new price support legislation. The composition of the Board, the Advisory Board, and how these might operate in actual practice were discussed at considerable length. I hope that the suggestions that we were able to give them will help them in getting the administrative machinery set up as quickly as possible.

Guest Editorial -- Our Neighbors

By Mrs. George Finlay



Until we know our neighbor we do not understand his problems. I believe that when we as individual farmers get to personally know a few of our neighbor farmers across Canada then we will be better able to work out our problems together.

How about a trip to help this along? I know many farmers feel they have neither the time nor the money for a holiday each year. A holiday need not be too lengthy or expensive.

First of all let us understand Alberta. Do you people in the northern part of the province really understand the problems of the southern part, and vice versa? Do we of the eastern part understand the problems of the farmers in the western part of Alberta? Each area has its own particular problems and the more you travel in Alberta the better understanding you will have of these problems. Now after you have met the farmers of Alberta, how about branching out? Travel in and through some of the other provinces of Canada.

You will say, "O.K. Now we have the road map, but you still do not tell us how to go about it!" Suppose, for instance, that you were a grain farmer living in northern Alberta and decided to travel south. I would suggest you go at least 100 miles and possibly farther. When you see a dairy farm or the same type as your own, then how about stopping in the district, having a chat with the people there on their ideas and farming operations. This might give you quite an insight into other's feelings on a good many subjects.

With knowledge comes understanding and when we get together as a consolidated group that understand each other and face our problems together then we will be able to solve a great many of these problems. The Farmers' Union of Alberta is just such a group and whether we agree with it or not we should definitely join and help to direct policy with the rest of our fellow farmers.

KNOW THY CO-OPS

by D. G. Whitney

The following is an account written from memory, relating a few ideas that were brought out during a very good F.U.A. local meeting I had been asked to attend a short time ago.

In writing on this topic, I am prompted by the conviction that we farmers stand to profit through wider use of Co-operatives, and a better understanding of their uses.

When invited to visit this local F.U.A. meeting I was informed that a director from one of our Dairy Pools had also been asked to attend.

I replied that I would attend if desired, having no objection to another speaker, since when it comes to talking, I am a far better listener.

Arriving at the hall among the first dozen, I was pleased to see arrive another two dozen or more farmers, and two representatives from the Dairy Pool. After the business of the F.U.A. local had been disposed of, the local president stated that the Pool director who had been asked to come was attending a dairy convention in Quebec, and that he was pleased to see present the two gentlemen who had come in his stead.

This gentleman, a director, spoke well but briefly, advising us that they had not been informed as to the subject they were expected to speak upon, that they welcomed questions and discussion and constructive criticism. Further, they had no objections to criticism of any kind other than personal remarks which they preferred to avoid.

He suggested that perhaps the few remarks that he might give would possibly prompt a discussion that would bring forth the greatest amount of information.

There were no questions when he sat down, and the next speaker of the Pool, the manager of the Pool, came forward. He spoke also without any indications from the group what they wished him in particular to speak about.

He therefore assumed that final payments and the system of operation, particularly as it referred to the method that the Pool was establishing reserves, and accordingly proceeded in a capable manner.

Their Dairy Co-operative had no share capital. No member or patron had been asked to subscribe any share capital to the establishment of the Pool. To provide funds for the ownership of the lands, buildings and equipment and for working capital, the organization had to simply make use of surpluses from operations each fiscal year. After having reserves at what might be at or near proper levels, cash payments out of reserves was the policy of the organization. This particular Dairy Pool had been in opera-

tion since 1925. All operating surpluses in the years 1925 to 1946 had been returned to the members in cash. This amounted to over one and a half million dollars. The operating surpluses from the years 1947 to the present date was all that was held back for the board of directors of the organization for the ownership and operation of the business. Further than that, out of the earnings for this eleven year period, the board of directors two years back called for redemption in cash without any discount for prepayment all the participation credits of members who had been deceased up to that time. Further, all previous members that had reached the age of 70 and had retired from active farming, the total of their participation credits had also been redeemed in cash without any prepayment.

In the years 1925 to 1937 inclusive, which were the formative years of the organization, the Dairy Pool did retain one to two cents a pound butterfat as a reserve. However, these reserves have all been returned the members in that period. And since, beginning in 1938, the organization has paid market prices for all its purchases from its members.

There are numerous reasons for the necessity of establishing reserves. Some of the principal ones are:

1. It is a sound business practice.
2. In this case it is necessary because that is their only means of acquiring capital to own the businesses and to operate them.
3. These reserves are used for the replacing of machinery and taking care of general depreciation and plant maintenance.
4. As previously mentioned, it allowed the board of directors to establish the policy of clearing off estate claims and equity of retired patrons.

In the question period one man asked why his reserves were not made available to him now, when he needed them, rather than withhold them until he was 70 years of age, or had passed on.

The answer to this question was that as no patron had made any cash investment in the Dairy Pool, and as it was necessary that capital come from some place to own the plants and to operate them, it was necessary to retain the surpluses from the yearly operations for a certain period of years. The speaker mentioned that just as it is necessary on a farm to acquire a piece of equipment for farming operations, such as a cow stable, or a cream separator, or a milking machine, or any other piece of equipment, which would enable the farmer to put certain of his farm production on the market in an acceptable form to buyers of agricultural

products, it was also necessary that the Dairy Pool in order to take the products from its various members and put these products in an acceptable market condition both as to form and as to quality, the various plants of the Dairy Pool had to be kept in good condition and this was not possible except by expending on a yearly basis reasonable sized sums of money for the replacement of equipment that had become obsolete and possibly inefficient as related to newer equipment that was constantly being developed and offered for use.

Another man made a statement that brought to light a line of thinking I had never encountered before, and that, I would like to interject, is one of the primary objects of an F.U.A. meeting, to bring out new lines of thought, or new ideas.

The gist of this member's remarks was as follows — placing many, or all heretofore conceived co-operative ideas in reverse:

"If there was another creamery at this point, you (the Co-op) would not be able to hold back that cent a pound. The Livestock Pool buys livestock at this point and they could not hold back anything because there are other buyers here."

Well, they say we live and learn, therefore a program of education on co-operation may be necessary as long as we live.

We are inclined to lose sight of the fact that a co-operative is the patron's own business. And the board of directors is charged with the responsibility of setting the policies of that business in a manner that the co-operative would be useful to its membership as a whole — and of course to be useful it has got to be strong and efficient.

If the patrons agree to lay aside a percentage of their pooled earnings for a certain purpose, it should be readily understood that it is the fairest and the most businesslike way to achieve that purpose.

Unfortunately, while such a program is being carried out, a few patrons would choose to sell their products elsewhere, thinking to gain a few cents, apparently blind to the damage they are doing to themselves and others.

I would like to state for the record, that prior to the establishing of a livestock pool in this area, the price paid by drovers for hogs was set at two dollars per hundred under the Calgary market prices. Today this livestock pool pays twenty cents per hundred over the average price for the first three days of the week on the Calgary market.

If we farmers knew as much about co-operatives as the co-operatives' competitors do, we would do more business the co-operative way.

D. G. Whitney,
R.R. 4, Lacombe, Alberta

NOTE: This is reference to that member's remarks about the Dairy Pool paying under the market. It was explained to the meeting that the Dairy Pool at the present time is paying market prices.

The quoted price in some cases is a cent less than the Edmonton and/or Calgary quotation, but the average price is well up to market because of the fact that the Dairy Pool does pay more of the transportation than firms do where a cent higher pricing is quoted.

We Need a Cancer Hospital

by Kay Dowhaniuk

It is a well known fact that cancer is one of the cruelest and deadliest killers of mankind, and in spite of spectacular medical advances in other fields comparatively little is known about cancer.

In June, 1957, a report presented by the Canadian Cancer Society estimated 250 new cancer patients for every 100,000 population. This would indicate that the present population of approximately 1,100,000 people in Alberta we could expect about 2500 new cases this year.

During the past year it has been stated by hospital boards of major hospitals that we do have a shortage of hospital beds in Edmonton and Calgary. In March of 1957 an Edmonton daily newspaper reported that records of four major hospitals show nearly 2,000 residents of Edmonton and nearby centre currently cannot be accommodated at the institutions. Even with the assumption that some names on the waiting lists may be repetitions, we can clearly see that more hospital beds will have to be provided in the foreseeable future.

Would it not be soundly beneficial then that a cancer hospital be built in Alberta, a hospital with modern facilities that would provide for operative and active treatment of all cancer cases. Just visualize the advantages of such a hospital over our present set-up. We have cancer patients spread over all the city hospitals. A great many of these unfortunate people have to be transported to the Cancer Clinic by ambulance for X-ray or cobalt treatment. The cost, and especially the suffering, is great.

A cancer hospital located perhaps adjacent to the cancer clinic would eliminate all that, would leave beds free for other patients, and most important of all it would centralize the treatment of all cancer. It must be difficult to conduct research with a handful of patients in the wards of a general hospital.



ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK

by PANSY MOLEN

F. U. A. PRESENTATION TO PROVINCIAL CABINET

This is a report on the submission to the Provincial Cabinet by the F.U.A. Your president, secretary, executive and central board met with the cabinet on January 15th. Members of the cabinet who were present were Hon. E. C. Manning, Hon. A. J. Hooke, Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Hon. A. R. Patrick, Dr. Ross, Hon. E. W. Hinman, Hon. A. O. Aalborg, Hon. J. Hartley, Hon. R. D. Jorgenson and Hon. N. A. Willmore.

Your delegation restated that the FUA is a grassroot organization, representing actual farmers in Alberta, and the submission reflected the thinking of the farmers and dealt with real live problems. The cabinet was complimented for legislation of benefit to farm people, enacted last year. The delegation also stated that their objective is to alleviate the economic conditions on the Alberta farms.

The statement was made as follows: "The failure to organize an egg marketing board was one of the big disappointments of the year. As you know, we feel that this failure was due to the use of unsuitable techniques in establishing producer opinion, and we are sure that your government will correct this in the near future."

Municipal Finance

Pertaining to Municipal Finance, eleven recommendations were made: lessening of reserves, oil equipment on leased land be assessed as real property, no direct grants to school boards, opposition to any proposed taxes on farm buildings. The cabinet said they do not intend to tax farm buildings. The F.U.A. urged reduction of taxes on land, discourages the annexation of rural areas into urban areas, asks that the Municipal Districts be given authority to tax power transmission lines except R.E.A.'s. Drilling rigs should be taxed by the Province and the money turned over to the Municipal Districts. The delegation stated that the cost of education should be the responsibility of major governments, less cost of erection and cost of maintenance of buildings. The cabinet stated that the FUA recommendations were much along the line of what the government is working on.

Livestock Policy

The FUA recommended that a veterinary

college be established in the West. The cabinet did not agree as the cost of erection of one would be too great. At present the government offers grants of \$200.00 a year for anyone attending the Veterinary College at Guelph.

We asked for more veterinarians in the Province. There are 75 to 80 veterinarians in the province now and the only shortage is in the Peace River, stated the cabinet.

The delegation asked for the speeding up of TB testing in the province, and that all bangs vaccination cost be borne by the province. The government stated they would look into TB testing program and try to do something. Two-thirds of cattle are in the Brucellosis-free area now, they stated.

We were informed that a committee is being set up in the Western Provinces to study the Veterinary services, the need for more veterinarians, the whole picture of veterinary needs.

Game Policy

The cabinet spokesman stated that the situation in regard to trespassing has improved somewhat, and government wished that legislation be left as is for one more year, before any suggested changes are looked into. In regards to muskrat and beaver, it is possible to obtain a permit after inspection to destroy them in areas where they are pests. The cabinet does not feel they should go further in this regard.

FUA asked for insurance to take care of damage done by ducks. The cabinet was not prepared to recommend insurance as yet.

Electric Power

The spokesman for the cabinet stated they did not agree with our views.

Car Insurance

We asked for stricter enforcement of traffic laws. The government is trying to get additional highway patrol. The cabinet said they hoped that soon insurance requirements would be the same across Canada, so that our Alberta "Pink Card" would be valid across Canada.

There was no comment on our request that standard insurance policies be so written that a farmer can collect insurance if hired help steal his car or truck.

Natural Resources

The delegation recommended that all farmers not owning mineral and oil rights on their land be given 2% of all oil produced on their land. The cabinet did not think it would be fair to the province as a whole to give a man without mineral rights a 2% royalty. They get compensation for inconvenience.

The FUA asked that instead of auctioning the leases that the net royalties on the leases be auctioned. Cabinet said that this is being tried on a small scale now.

Farm Purchase Credit Act

The FUA recommended six amendments to this Act. The minister said he wanted to wait one year before considering any amendments, in order to see how the Act was working out. To date there have been 26 boards set up and 10 pending. No loans have been made under the Act, except in the Cardston Municipality as yet.

Municipal Collection of Dues

We requested an amendment to the Municipal Act that would allow municipalities to collect Farm Union dues along with taxes when a signed requisition form from a ratepayer was presented to them. The cabinet will give this their consideration.

The FUA delegation made a request for improvement in the extension service by publishing a "Guide to Farm Practice in Alberta." Cabinet will give this their consideration. The minister stated that Mr. Peterson had been appointed Farm Management Director by the Department of Agriculture.

The remaining 18 provincial resolutions passed at our annual conventions will be taken up with the departments concerned in the near future. A copy of them has been given to the Cabinet.

Care Suggested

In Magistrate's Court at Morinville on January 7th, North Sask Seeds Ltd., 1805 Cornwall Street, Regina, Sask., was fined \$100.00 for operating as an unlicensed seed dealer in the Province of Alberta.

The charges had been laid by the Field Crops Branch, Alberta Department of Agriculture and arose out of activities of the company's agents in the Morinville district. These salesmen promoted and sold seed of an inferior oat variety, Clintland, at exorbitant prices. In promoting sales a contract to purchase part of the seed produced was offered to the farmer. Due to the present difficulty of marketing grain, a number of farmers signed a contract and purchase order without careful study.

The supervisor of Crop Improvement Service, R. L. Pharis, suggests that farmers who are approached by unknown seed salesmen should very carefully consider what is being offered. If a contract to purchase the farmer's production from the seed is offered as an incentive, then the salesman should be requested to produce his license card. Such a card is required by all dealers purchasing seed in the province of Alberta and is proof of their responsibility.

\$22,000.00 IN HARD CASH

was paid out to Alberta farmers last year by U.F.A. Co-op as a dividend on Farm supply purchases. This was in addition to the savings effected at the time of purchase, made possible by the low prices maintained by the Farm Supply division of your co-operative. More and more F.U.A. Locals are getting in on the savings in Farm Supplies which can be made through U.F.A. Co-op.

Among items on which savings are possible are seed grain dressings, and you will be thinking about treating your grain soon now. U.F.A. Co-op handles the full line of the reliable Green Cross products. Check on savings possible through U.F.A. Co-op before buying elsewhere.

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FWUA Section



FWUA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by MRS. C. T. ARMSTRONG

W.A.C.

The Western Agricultural Conference was held in Winnipeg January 24-25. Rulon Dahl of Raymond conducted the meeting and a full agenda of resolutions and speakers was completed. Mr. Dahl was re-elected chairman, with Mr. A. Swenson, B.C. and Mr. T. Bobier, Sask., as assistants. I was re-elected Western Women's representative to the C.F.A.

C.F.A.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture Convention was held in Montreal January 27-31. There is lots of snow in the east, and it kept on coming down all the time we were there. It made traffic slower and getting around quite difficult, but even so there was a good turn-out at the open sessions, and on Monday night several car-loads of people came in over 100 miles for Farm Radio Forum. I hope our farm people are listening to these programs each Monday night, the topics are timely and should provoke good discussions in the forums.

Charles Lynch, CBC news correspondent, gave an excellent talk on "Canada's Busy-bodies," but don't let the title mislead you, he was explaining Canada's role in United Nations and International affairs, and the people Canada has in these important areas and the contribution they are making. Hon. Douglas Harkness, Minister of Agriculture, gave a good address and answered many questions, and to my thinking showed a desire to understand the farm problems and offered some solutions to correct them. He spoke at some length on the Price Stabilization Bill and has shown willingness to accept suggested amendments as ad-

vanced by I.F.U.C. and C.F.A. which will be more helpful to agricultural producers. One unique feature of the convention was the simultaneous translation into French of the speeches and debate on resolutions so that those in the audience could put on headphones and hear the proceedings in French, and it was going over the radio to the people at home in Quebec.

It was easy to see that farmers from east and west were faced with the same type of problems and all were anxious to talk things over in a friendly way and see what could be done to remedy things for the people on the land. It was decided to meet with Federal Government members on February 5th and put the farmers' needs before them.

Dr. Ernie Hope

A sad note of the C.F.A. meeting was the sudden passing of Dr. Ernie Hope from a heart attack. Dr. Hope was the economist with C.F.A. for the past 8 years and his work on behalf of agriculture was outstanding. At the time of his passing he was working on a brief for C.F.A. to present to the Price Spreads Commission. His untimely death will increase the work-load on Dr. Hannam and David Kirk and give the Board the problem of trying to fill the void.

Senator James Gladstone

We are pleased to learn of the appointment to the Senate of Mr. James Gladstone of the Blood Indians near Cardston. He is the first Indian to be so honoured, and will represent 165,000 Indian Canadians in the white man's highest council. It is a pleasure to know Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, and this friendly, sincere couple will represent their people with dignity.



VETERANS ON THE LAND



C. J. Versluys, Chairman.

Another milestone in western agriculture is being set up with the building of an oil-seed extracting plant at Lethbridge. It is expected that cleaning plant, to be used in conjunction with the refinery, will be built by April. The whole unit is expected to be in operation by October.

The capital is being raised by the sale of shares at two dollars (\$2.00) per share for the first 500,000 shares. The whole venture will require nearly three and a half million dollars.

Western Canadian Seed Processors expect to be able to process 90 tons of flax seed per 24 hour stream day, or 200 tons of sunflower seed per stream day.

Safflower seed as well as soya bean seed will be required by the processors. Safflower seed oil is extensively used in the manufacture of finer quality paints, due to its ability to avoid yellowing of the paint, which is a very common complaint voiced against linseed oil paints. This oil is also used in the manufacture of certain medical products.

A by-product that shall prove a boon to livestock feeders will be oilcake meal.

With farmers generally searching for greater diversification of crops this new industry will fill a great need. It is expected that the greatest production of safflower, sunflower and soya bean seeds will come from the area to the south-east and east of Lethbridge. Flax seed, rape seed and commercial mustard seed can be produced profitably over a very large portion of southern Alberta, as well as districts farther to the north.

The writer of this report had a talk with Mr. Hugh Michael, vice-president of the company, recently. Mr. Michael reports that the sale of shares is progressing very favorably, and he further stated that the plant has been planned to allow for a considerable expansion, if required.

It seems that here is an opportunity for farmers to invest in the future of agriculture. I was shown letters from very distant points in the U.S.A. asking for information on the company. One letter in point came from an agricultural station at Ames City, Iowa.

It seems quite reasonable to assume that with the cutting of hauling distances of the raw materials in question in this report it should reflected favorably in returns to growers. Take, for example, the case of safflower seed which has a great deal of hull. The cost of transporting this product to the only existing plants available to our area — one is in Oregon and the other in California, freight is a great factor in determining returns to the grower. With a processing plant in the farmers' back yard, as we might say, there can be no question that this will be a means of introducing safflower production on a paying and permanent basis in many districts of Alberta.

JUNIOR NEWS

A Junior F.U.A. local has been organized at Picardville. The leaders, Mr. Burns and Mr. Stirling are keeping the ball rolling by a program of entertainment, which at present consists of the juniors picking a "Queen" and two attendants for a carnival to be held later.

* * *

Two new Jr. locals have been formed in District 4, one at St. Lina and one at Edwand. Best of luck in all your activities.

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F.U.A. Junior News

FARM CREDIT

by Tom Nisbet

Farm credit is one of the most difficult problems facing the Canadian farmer, for it seems that as farm income declines the need for credit increases. Also, as the need increases it becomes increasingly harder to get.

The cost-price squeeze, the tight money policy (competing with other business and industry for the same capital), all have an effect on the ability of the farmer to obtain credit through schemes that are both realistic and practical.

We are in the midst of one of the greatest technological advances in all history. Much of it requires large and expensive equipment. A farmer with an eye to the future must keep reasonably abreast of these changes, or suffer serious losses. Because, unless he produces the cheapest way possible, someone else will and, eventually, he may be forced out of business.

The economists tell us that there are too many people trying to farm now. Should we, then, increase the sources of credit and so add to our surpluses? (and with consequently lower prices.) On the other hand it is generally considered essential that Agriculture, because it is basic, should be subsidized if necessary so as to give the more efficient farmers a reasonable standard of living. It follows, then, that a suitable credit policy should conform partially to both of these ideas.

There are three basic considerations to the problem of farm credit.

1. The nature of the farming operation as it differs from other types of businesses.

Because of the various risks involved (weather, markets, etc.) farm income is notoriously unstable. The result is that few farms are financed by the selling of shares and the formation of a company. Most other businesses and industry are financed in this way, hence the farmer must look elsewhere for capital.

2. The Earning Power of Farm Capital.

Because of the low earning power of farm capital private enterprise was and is unwilling to meet the needs of farming. The C.F.A. policy on Credit uses the figure of 3½% as the earning power of farm capital. Thus, because Agriculture is important various government agencies have been set up to try and meet these needs.

3. Who needs it?

- (a) The young man starting farming.
- (b) The existing farmer who requires credit to increase his efficiency.
- (c) The farmer who would become efficient except for the lack of capital to extend and improve his operation.

The Young Man Starting Farming

It would be folly to try to retain on the farm those young people who are not particularly interested in farming, or those who would be better off elsewhere. However, many of the young people who are leaving, like farming, are interested in it and would be a definite asset to any community. One of the reasons for this migration is the tremendous financial problem to starting farming. Today the task is almost impossible without some help from the parents.

According to the National Farm Radio Forum of December, 1954, this was the most widely used method of starting. V.L.A. and private loans are next on the list.

The Existing Farmer Who Requires Credit To Increase His Efficiency

This class of farmer is still operating successfully, but wants to improve his present unit.

The farmer who would be efficient except for the lack of capital to extend or improve his operations. Many of the farmers in this category have been successful up until the last few years when high production costs have forced them into the "red". To get into the "black" again he may need more land, new buildings, or a more specialized set-up. This might require a lot of credit and perhaps some technical assistance.

Types of Credit Needed:

1. Short-term: for operating expenses before production is complete and payment received.
2. Intermediate type loans for such things as machinery and livestock.
3. Long-term loans for land and buildings.
4. Disaster loans, for farmers that are struck with natural disaster — such as flood, hail, drought, etc.

The following is a list of some of the more important sources of rural credit. Details on these sources will follow in future issues of The Organized Farmer.

1. Mortgage Company.
2. Bank Loans.
3. Farm Improvement Loans.
4. Guaranteed Feeders' Loans.
5. Rural Electrification Associations.
6. Rural Credit Unions.
7. Canadian Farm Loan Board.
8. Farm Purchase Boards.
9. Rural Telephone Revolving Fund.

Hon. Douglas Harkness' Address To The C.F.A. Annual Meeting



Part of the address of the Hon. Douglas Harkness to the C.F.A. annual meeting in Montreal on January 29, 1958. The editor regrets that owing to space limitations, it was impossible to print this address in its entirety.

It is this uncertainty of farm income in comparison with more stable prices of goods and services farmers have to buy; their increasing dependence on these goods and services in the operation of their farms; and the difficulty of obtaining adequate capital because of this uncertainty of income, that has brought insistent demand for government measures that would keep farm prices at a level comparable with the prices of other commodities.

As Minister of Agriculture I have been studying every means by which this uncertain position of the farmer in Canada can be improved. The first major step has been the introduction of the Agricultural Prices Stabilization Bill, now approved by the House of Commons. The bill is now being considered by the Senate, where I understand there is some opposition to it, as it is considered its guarantees are too great. However, I have every confidence that that august body will eventually pass it.

This legislation is an important part of our program to help the farming industry to advance in keeping with the pace of economic development in our other industries. I should like to make it perfectly clear that no single piece of legislation can be expected to solve all of these difficulties under which the complex industry of agriculture is presently labouring. However, I do believe that this legislation will give to our farmers a much greater degree of security than they have ever before enjoyed in our history. The most important feature of the legislation is that it makes it possible to provide a guaranteed yearly price for any agricultural product for which support may be necessary. The guaranteed yearly price to be in effect for any commodity will be set at a level having regard to the estimated average cost of production, and other factors which must be considered, to ensure the farmer a fair return for his labour and investment and to maintain a fair relationship

between the price received by the farmer and the cost of the goods and services which he must buy.

The Bill provides for the use of a ten-year moving average formula. The average price of any commodity during the ten years immediately preceding the year in which a support price is set is known as the base price for this commodity and the level at which it is supported will be set as a percentage of this base price.

There is an ultimate security clause in the Bill to ensure that for nine key commodities no matter how drastic a decline in prices may take place farmers are guaranteed a minimum of 80% of the base price — that is of the average price during the preceding ten years. These nine key commodities are cattle, hogs, sheep, butter and cheese, eggs, and wheat, oats and barley except in the Canadian Wheat Board area. For these nine key commodities a mandatory floor price will be in effect at all times. This is what might be called the minimum guarantee in the Bill.

It needs to be stressed that the Bill provides for two levels of support:

- (a) The mandatory floor prices on the nine key commodities guaranteed in the Act at 80% of the base price.
- (b) The guaranteed yearly prices which will be the ones in actual use and operation in most cases. They will be set normally during the first three months of each year and will be in effect for twelve months in each case after being set.

The plan will be administered by an Agricultural Stabilization Board which will have at its disposal a revolving fund of \$250 million. The three methods provided in the Bill to put a price guarantee in effect are:

- (1) outright purchase by the Government,
- (2) a deficiency payment to bridge the gap between the prescribed price and the actual market price,
- (3) a fixed payment to producers where such form of stabilization appears more practicable than either of the other two methods, or any other method which the Governor in Council may prescribe.

An advisory committee of farmers and representatives of farm organizations will be appointed to advise the Minister and the Board on what commodities should be put under price support and the level of this support.

Flexibility is an important feature of this plan because it will permit us to support a much wider range of farm products than would be possible. During the course of our studies in the preparation of this legislation we examined the American system very closely and found

that at the present time only thirteen agricultural commodities, plus dairy products and wool, are supported out of a total of 250 which are produced by American farmers. In addition to that, four-fifths of the money paid out under the American price support system has gone to one-quarter of the American farmers. At the same time that their rigid system produced these effects it resulted in the piling up of burdensome and unsaleable surpluses, the disposal of which has disrupted the marketing of our own and other countries' agricultural products, as well as constituting a very heavy drain on the American taxpayer. It seemed to me absolutely essential that if we are to have a workable agricultural price support program in Canada we must avoid any rigid system which would produce the same unfortunate results in Canada which have developed in the United States.

What concerns the farmer is the results of a price support system, and there are two of these in particular which he needs. First, he wants prices for his products which will cover his cost of production and leave him enough to live on, and, second, he desires a sense of security in his price structure, the removal of his long-time fear that prices will fall away to nothing while his crop is growing or his livestock developing to market size. In this legislation we have attempted to meet these two demands, conditional on not providing a price for any commodity which will serve as a strong incentive to farmers and thus result in large unsaleable surpluses.

This legislation has been criticized chiefly on the ground that it does not provide for a rigid parity formula. In my view any attempt to provide such a formula would result in a situation such as developed in the United States and it would be economically and politically impossible to maintain a price support system of that kind in Canada. I believe that the relatively flexible price support system provided for by the Bill will give the maximum benefits which it is possible to afford to agriculture in a country such as ours.

The Bill has been badly understood in some quarters and what is the minimum guarantee in the Bill has been represented as its maximum benefit. In other words, that the ultimate security feature which pleases a mandatory floor price under the nine key commodities at all times is all that the Bill provides for, when in fact the guaranteed yearly prices designed to give an adequate return to farmers is the most important feature of the Bill.

The Bill has also been criticized on the ground that it is no better than the present Agricultural Prices Support Act, and may not be as

good. I think that any person who examines the Bill will see immediately that it possesses at least four great advantages over the present Act. First, it provides for a definite formula—the ten-year moving average which will ensure that there is some relationship between the support price set for one commodity as compared to others and thus make it possible to get some system into the type of support prices and the level at which these will be set. Second, the Bill provides for an advisory committee composed of farmers and representatives of farm organizations for the specific purpose of advising as to what commodities should be under price support and the level of the guaranteed yearly price to be provided for these commodities. Third, the legislation provides for guaranteed yearly prices to be set a year in advance. Once set they will remain in effect for the following 12 months. This introduces a system of forward pricing and will put the farmer in the position that he can plan his operations for the following year with some definite knowledge of the minimum price which he will receive. Fourth, the Bill provides an ultimate security feature in that there will be a mandatory floor price at all times on the nine key commodities. The present Agricultural Prices Support Act provided for no mandatory floors at all.

As Minister of Agriculture I have been exploring every possible means by which the position of our farmers and thus of the general economy of Canada can be improved. In order to accomplish this, the problem has to be attacked on many fronts. I have had under study, and hope within the next year to be able to take definite steps to move forward on, several of these. I believe that we require an improved credit system for Canadian farmers which will make money available to them to modernize and improve their farms so that they can carry on more efficiently in many cases than has been possible for them to do in the past. I have also had under study the possibility of introducing a system of crop insurance to protect farmers against the natural hazards of drought, hail, flood, etc., with which they constantly have to contend. A third line of approach is the institution of a national soil and water conservation program, one facet of which will be the construction of the South Saskatchewan Dam.

These are only three broad fronts on which we are prepared to move in order to assist the industry of agriculture. The Prime Minister and the entire Cabinet are fully aware of the necessity of maintaining agriculture in a healthy and prosperous condition and we are prepared, and in fact determined to take every step open to us to accomplish this end.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Box 99, Wainwright, Alberta

The Alberta Government has appointed a Royal Commission on Education. They have been instructed to study elementary and secondary schools in Alberta, to assess past performance, present needs and future direction. Detailed terms of reference are available to anyone interested. In studying Agricultural Education in the High Schools, the Schools of Agriculture—their relationship to each other and to the University, you can be of great help to the Commission. The Organization as a whole will be preparing and presenting a Brief (Mrs. Russel Johnston on general education and Mr. A. W. Platt on agricultural education). However if any person, any local or any district have a particular angle which they would like to present to a commissioner or the commission as a whole they are most welcome to do so. Hearings are being planned for approximately 22 locations in Alberta so should be within easy travelling distance of all. Submissions should be in the hands of the Commission secretary before April 15th. If you wish to appear before the Commission this will be possible during May or June. The Commission have no intention of making it difficult for anyone to present views, and are interested mainly in ascertaining what results you wish to obtain from your educational system.

To stimulate your thinking the following are some questions which will require an answer:

(1) What should be the relationship between the high schools, the schools of agriculture and the university in regard to the teaching of agriculture?

(2) Should all high school students receive some instruction in the economic and social problems of farmers? Should some be permitted to carry out practical projects on the home farm under the guidance and supervision of the teacher?

(3) Should schools of agriculture in different parts of the province specialize in certain types of farming—for example dairying, in the production of pure seed, etc.; in addition to general agriculture courses. Would this make it possible to provide the most modern types of buildings and equipment at such schools and is this desirable?

(4) Has anyone evolved a system of apprenticeship training for young farmers so that they might have the opportunity to work with an experienced successful farmer?

(5) Should schools of agriculture become rural colleges and provide a variety of courses to train farm young people for positions in grain elevators, seed-cleaning plants, co-operative stores, other co-operative agencies, as field supervisors, etc? Should they provide courses in bookkeeping, typing, etc. of a high enough calibre to provide them with a way of making a living until marriage or until they had an opportunity to use these skills in their farming operations?

(6) What results do you expect from your elementary and secondary schools? Do you expect that every child shall be given every opportunity to develop to his or her fullest capacity, whether he be gifted, average or below average?

(7) Should we insist on a thorough grounding and a definite standard of achievement in the fundamentals before awarding a grade nine certificate—or should this be required at an even earlier stage?

(8) Does our present political, social and economic life not require a better grounding and a higher efficiency in the fundamentals—if so, how are we to cope with the problem? Does it mean we should extend the school day, week or year? Does it mean we should cut down on the curricula and stress the fundamentals? Are we asking more and more of our pupils without discrimination as to what is fundamental, what is desirable and what is desired by pressure groups?

(9) Should pupils not be stimulated to attempt difficult tasks as an introduction to the fact that many problems in real life are hard and sometimes disagreeable?

(10) At some point should pupils be introduced to many fields of interest and appreciation, with the thought in mind that the future may afford more and more leisure for all?

(11) Should the schools attempt to mould the child to suit the community or should the schools attempt to raise the standards of the community?

(12) Should we make more of an effort to encourage the child to think? Should this be true even if the results of his thinking are contrary to those of the teacher or even of the community?

These are just some of the problems. Please give them your earnest consideration and present your considered opinions either to individual Commissioners or in the form of a brief to the Commission as a whole.



"Oh, Dear Myrtle, we must have used the wrong hose."

BONSPIEL IN DISTRICT 14

February 3 and 4 the locals in Warner County held a two day bonspiel at Milk River. Thirty-two rinks were entered, 11 rinks from Warner, 6 from Writing-on-Stone, 6 from New Dayton, 5 from 1-17 and 4 from Wrentham. The bonspiel was conducted on a point basis for locals and individuals. Locals finished in this order: Wrentham and New Dayton (tied), 1-17, Warner and Writing-on-Stone. Steve Angel rink from 1-17 won first prize for the highest score for the two days, followed by Clem Kaupp of New Dayton. Lowest score taken by Jean Cody of Milk River.

Greater carrying capacity through forage improvement in Alberta is a major objective of the farming industry.

TRUCK-TRAINS MOVE CATTLE IN AUSTRALIA

Australia has developed a new style of truck-trains for moving cattle. These new vehicles are 145 feet in length, have 42 tires and carry 86 head of full-grown cattle per load. Each truck-train unit consists of a truck or tractor towing two 40-foot trailers. Each tractor has four sets of dual driving wheels.

Two truck-trains now are operating, both transporting feeder and slaughter cattle about 400 miles from Helen Springs in the Northern Territory to Mount Isa in Queensland. The trip takes about 25 hours by truck-train instead of five or six weeks by cattle trail.—Spot News from Abroad.

FROM A POINT OF LAW:

Drainage of Municipal Roads

A. M. Brownlee

Spring will soon be upon us, and with it will probably come the problem of keeping rural highways drained without causing unnecessary flooding of farm lands. This problem has been fairly serious since about 1947 which seems to have been the start of a cycle of wet years, and it has resulted in many differences between land owners and Municipal Councils as to the drainage systems employed, and particularly the placing of culverts. Land owners usually expect the Municipality to carry water in ditches to natural outlets. Unfortunately, rural municipalities have neither the facilities nor the financial resources with which to carry out expensive drainage schemes, and must do the best they can to drain highways with the least possible damage to adjacent lands.

Too few land owners have a clear understanding of the extent of the duty which the Legislature of Alberta has imposed upon Municipal Districts in regard to drainage of rural highways, or of steps which a land owner should take if his land is being flooded because of inadequate or improper drainage of such highways. The duty is imposed by Section 243 of The Municipal District Act which reads, in part, as follows:

"243(1) A Council shall make adequate provision for

- (a) the drainage of all highways constructed or maintained by the Council, and
- (b) the disposition of any water collected in a drainage ditch or other artificial depression created by the council on or contiguous to the road allowance forming the site of the highway,

in such a manner as to prevent the flooding of other land."

The duty of the Council under this Section is twofold: first, to drain the highways so that they are open for traffic; and secondly, to dispose of water "collected" in the road ditches. Many land owners feel that once water has found its way into road ditches, it is the duty of the Council to carry it to a natural outlet.

This would mean that if a municipal road was constructed along the path of a natural water-course, the Municipality would have to dispose of the water even though the road construction had not altered or increased the flow of water. On two occasions our Courts have disagreed with this view and instead have ruled that the Council will only have a duty to perform under this section where the municipal road has collected or diverted water so that it is flowing in a different direction. This interpretation recognizes the old common-law principle that an owner of farm land must accept the natural flow of water on to his land from natural sources, and that he is only entitled to object when some one diverts on to his land water which otherwise would not reach it.

When a land owner who has suffered flood damage feels that the responsibility lies with the Council of his Municipal District, he may file a complaint in writing with the Secretary-Treasurer. This must be done with great care and strictly in the manner prescribed in The Municipal District Act. The complaint will be placed before the next meeting of the Council, at which meeting the complainant will be entitled to appear and make representations and the Council will then name a committee to investigate the complaint and to recommend the measures to be taken to remedy it. Should the Council decide that no grounds exist for the complaint, it will notify the complainant to that effect and the complainant is then entitled to make a further complaint, this time to a Judge of the District Court. The Judge will order an enquiry into the situation, and will decide whether or not he should order the Municipal Council to take any steps to remedy the situation. The Act then states quite clearly that no action for an omission or default by a Municipal Council to perform its duties under Section 243 shall lie at the suit of any person unless he has made a complaint in accordance with the Act, and the Judge has either made an order which has not been complied with by the Council, or has declined to make an order against the Council at all. Having regard to the statutory provisions, a land owner who has suffered flood damage should make the requisite complaint to his Municipal Council without delay so that the situation will be rectified, or at least he will be entitled to bring legal proceedings to recover his damages.

TAX TOPICS

NUMBER 1

By J. S. HERSCHEL, Director
Farmers Union Accounting Service.

Commencing with this issue a monthly report on TAX TOPICS will be carried in "The Organized Farmer." The purpose of this column will be to acquaint the members with the existing Income Tax Laws and to carry news of any changes in Tax Legislation that will benefit the membership.

Recent Tax legislation has no doubt been welcomed, although many of us expected greater reductions and larger exemptions for 1957.

Basically a flat rate of \$100.00 has been allowed for Donations and Medical expenses, whereas previously only that portion of Medical and Hospital expenses in excess of 3% of their net income was allowed.

The other basic change covering the 1957 Taxation year is increasing the earnings of dependents from \$750.00 to \$950.00 per year. Briefly this means that a dependent can now earn up to \$950.00 a year and still be claimed for at the allowable rate as previously for 1957.

The Farmers Union Accounting Service has received many inquiries from members with regard to filing their 1957 Tax Returns.

To the 200 members that filed their Income Tax Returns through our office and took advantage of the service offered in 1956 the necessary forms were mailed to them some time ago and we would urge these members to complete and return the forms to us as early as possible if they have not already done so.

If you wish your Income Tax Return prepared by our office, kindly call in to the office, write or phone us at once and a questionnaire together with the necessary forms will be mailed you. The forms are self-explanatory and can easily be filled out and sent back to us. We will then analyze the information sent us, and prepare the Tax Return. Please note that even if you do not have a Taxable Income, it is advisable to file a return as you many want to average your income over a 5-year period at some time in the near future, and probably sooner than you expect. The fee is nominal and you have the satisfaction of knowing that your return has been filed correctly.

For further information call or write today to:

J. S. Herschel, Director, Farmers Union Accounting Service, Farmers Union of Alberta, 9934 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

Don't delay — File now.

F.W.U.A. HIGHLIGHTS

Brooks FWUA #1302 heard a talk on some of the resolutions of the recent annual FUA convention, given by Frank Reade, sub-director. He also gave a pep-talk on increasing FUA membership. A scrap-book on Scotland has been started by a member.

* * *

Burnt Lake FWUA #1004 (Red Deer) seems to be getting out to their meetings—the outings and the help received by airing ideas and views. A special project for each month's meeting has been decided on, and to enter five months' programs in the contest held at the summer conference.

* * *

Swalwell FWUA #1017 heard their delegate's report on the convention, and they also had, on invitation, a delegate from the Three Hills Local who gave a very interesting report on the convention. Plans are being discussed for raising money to buy some gymnasium equipment for the school. The Egg Marketing Plebiscite was again discussed.

* * *

Okotoks FWUA #1208 also heard a report of the convention and found it very interesting. A donation was voted to go to Woods Christian Home. Also members were asked to donate used (religious type) Christmas cards at the next meeting.

* * *

Shady Nook FWUA #1014 (Red Deer) have found much interest in their project for adopting patients at the Ponoka Mental Hospital. These patients were remembered with gifts for Christmas, and will also be remembered with small remembrances on birthdays. Thank you notes, showing real appreciation, have been received by the local.

* * *

Poplar Ridge FWUA #1020 (Red Deer) report plenty of activity by way of catering at dances and holding card parties—with light lunches. A tour of the Central Alberta Dairy Pool was on the agenda for January 15. Mrs. R. S. Comfort spoke on the convention as guest speaker.

* * *

Mrs. Winnifred Ross gave a lively and much appreciated report of the annual convention at a meeting of Hillside FWUA #906 (Millet). Material for sewing a Red Cross quilt was distributed. Annual fall sale to be in November. Representatives are to attend a meeting on swimming and water safety at Pipestone School in January.

Partridge Hill #619 (Fort Saskatchewan) donated a hamper of homemade cookies and candies, and a box of oranges to the Agnes Forbes Lodge in Fort Saskatchewan, instead of exchanging gifts. The scrapbook on Australia is to be presented to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Edmonton, in hopes it may give enjoyment to some of the patients.

* * *

Marwayne FWUA #716 report fine parties during the Christmas season, one for members and the other a family party of both FWUA and FUA and children, with impromptu program. A donation of \$160 to Home and School. Gave a clothes dryer to a family who recently had a tragic accident to a member of their family. A donation of nearly \$100 to a young man victim of a serious accident. More sewing is planned for the local hospital, also articles for the Hobby Fair.

* * *

Three Hills FWUA #1018 plan on having a film on Mental Health, in March, and will be inviting locals from around Three Hills. A flower show in the summer was discussed and the members seemed to be in favor of it. Mrs. Jasman gave a very good report on the convention, and Mrs. Helton added a few more words on it.

* * *

Conrich FWUA #1007 at their January meeting made plans for new projects for 1958—Red Cross work, collecting Christmas cards, a social afternoon in February with slides to be shown by Greta Ekstrom, who is recently returned from Missionary work in Africa. Reports on the convention by two member-delegates were heard. Mrs. Barker spoke on the resolutions and stressed the need for stronger membership.

* * *

Hazel Bluff FWUA #305 (Westlock) reports a good attendance, and a good report on the annual convention by their delegate. The Christmas party was voted quite a success. Games, including a guessing game, carol singing, exchange of gifts and a lunch, and candy for the children, comprised the program.

* * *

East Longview FWUA #1211 had a very well attended meeting in January. The roll call, "I enjoy my FWUA membership," brought various answers, such as "It brings to light farm union activities across the province," "The Social aspect," "Community business." The delegates' reports on the convention were kept fairly brief and interesting. The study of the Education Policy, Women's Rights, and the Convener's reports will be taken up later on.

Viking South FWUA #807 report a well-attended meeting in January. The Home Economist from Vegreville gave an interesting talk on Farm Home Planning. She expressed the hope that the women would form a forum or club. Civil Defense was discussed and a meeting on it planned. It is also planned to make a scrapbook on Scotland this year.

* * *

Stony Plain FWUA #501 report good attendance and a good meeting. A demonstration of "New Cleaning Aids" was very interesting. It is planned to help procure a 4-H Club flag for the "Holborn Lassies' Sewing and Garden Club."

* * *

Birch Hills FWUA #103 (Wanham) due to slippery roads, had a poor attendance, but welcomed five new members from Bellow district. With the help of Wanham FUA #141 this local is sponsoring a Farmers' Curling Bonspiel. Card parties are held every two weeks as a means of raising funds for the local. Financial aid is given to the Mental Institute at Edmonton, and also to the Wanham Community Library.

* * *

Pine Hill FWUA #1013 (Red Deer) are making plans for an Easter party. An invitation has been extended to Mrs. Braithwaite to give a report on the convention.

* * *

Big Stone FWUA #1114 report good attendance of members and visitors. A report on the convention was heard. A bazaar and tea is planned for the spring, and a food hamper and picnic basket to be raffled at the same time. A teacher who visited Mexico is to give a talk on it at the February meeting.

* * *

Jenny Lind #1305 (Scandia) plans to put on a three-act play about the end of February and it will likely be presented at Scandia, Rainier, Tilley and Rolling Hills. Work is to commence on it as soon as possible. A wool afghan is to be raffled about the time the play is presented in Scandia.

* * *

Bon Accord FWUA #612 had a good attendance in January. A very interesting report on the convention was given by the delegates. Plans are under way for many activities in the next few months.

* * *

Gleichen FWUA #1010 report a number of donations to various organizations, including a parcel of candies, cake, puzzles, and a dress for an adopted patient at Ponoka. Egg Marketing Board sheet was signed by all members and outside members will be approached by 'phone. Reports by the two delegates to the convention were given and discussed.

Drumheller East FWUA #1111 ladies worked on a quilt for the Red Cross while the secretary went on with the business of the meeting. An interesting report on the convention was given by the delegate. It is felt that sewing for the Red Cross is very worthwhile and the ladies plan on doing several more quilts.

* * *

West Wind FWUA #1217 (Pincher Creek) report a letter of acknowledgment from the superintendent of Ponoka Mental Hospital for generous Christmas parcel sent by this local to adopted mental patients. An excellent report on the convention was given by the delegate.

* * *

Heath FWUA #703 (Wainwright) made their plans for the coming year's meetings. The District Home Economist is expected to speak and give a demonstration on "Flowers in the Home" in February. It is planned to sponsor a visit by Mrs. Armstrong to Wainwright to show her pictures. A scrapbook on Scotland is planned for this year. An interesting and comprehensive report on the convention was given by the delegate.

Asker FWUA #903 (Ponoka) suggests that as the judge of the scrapbook on Australia gave preference to the typewritten copy, this was unfair because most locals have no typewriter, and also the handwritten copy shows more individuality.

* * *

Edwell FWUA #1019 (Penhold) plan to hold a pie social and program. The meeting was given over mainly to hearing the delegates' reports on the annual meeting which were both interesting and informative.

* * *

Willingdon East FWUA #617 is catering for a pre-Lenten dance and banquet being put on by the FUA. A registered gilt will be raffled at this affair. All proceeds to go to the FUA. This FWUA local plans on giving the FUA a helping hand with finances this year.

Mr. J. K. Sutherland, Hanna, will be on the radio program "Points West" at 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening, February 21, 28, and March 7, over the CBC network. He will talk on the Homestead Days in Alberta.

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BARRED ROCKS	16.50	27.50	14.50
HAMPSHIRE—BARRED ROCK CROSSBREDS	16.50	27.50	14.50
LIGHT SUSSEX	15.50	27.50	14.50
HAMPSHIRE LEGHORN CROSSBREDS	15.50	33.50	6.50
HAMPSHIRE—LIGHT SUSSEX CROSSBREDS	16.50	27.50	14.50
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F.U.A. WORKSHOP IN SANGUDO TAKES TIME FOR REFRESHMENTS.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR OUR FARM BOYS AND GIRLS?

by Laura Gibeau, F.W.U.A. director, District 5

Youth is fully aware of the economic changes in our society today. They readily grasp "what's in the air." They are aware of the farmers' plight. It is only through our farm organizations that agriculture can hope to solve its many problems.

We are depending more and more on highly developed skills to produce and market. I know that many of our farm boys and girls are thinking seriously. Yes, we have a good number of large farm units with good homes and farm buildings, achieved by the hard work and ingenuity of the parents, and full lines of the best equipment. What does this mean to our young people? How can the young man hope to purchase this? Where does he begin? On the other hand, you have the small farms where the farm family barely makes its way of life. And then you have still smaller farms, with little land under cultivation and poorer land, inadequate houses and farm buildings, poor equipment forced into mechanized farming, forced to compete with the larger units. What have these to offer our youth? What does the future hold for them? There is no easy answer.

The challenge is yours, farm boys and girls. Start right now to **buckle down** in your classrooms, and put your thinking caps on. Education is your answer. You are fortunate to have the facilities — good schools of agriculture, and universities, many scholarships are available, donated by individuals, school boards, and divisions, grain companies, oil companies, all

kinds of opportunities for the boys and girls with ambition and initiative. Many of our young people put the cart before the horse — "Play before work". Did you ever ask yourself these questions, while sitting in the classroom, — Why am I here? What am I doing? Where do I go from here? What is expected of me? Do not forget that you owe the best you can give to yourself, your parents, your community and your country.

Many boys and girls, being born and raised on the farms, their interests naturally lie there. For those I would urge you to join the 4-H clubs or form one in your community and join the 70,000 4-H-ers all over Canada, who are attaining better life satisfaction, and richer personalities. It is also proven that through 4-H Canadian rural youth is planning its future. From here boys and girls join your Junior F.U.A. to further your education and to keep informed in agriculture. Attend Farm Young People's Week. You are the people who we are looking forward to, to lead our Farm Organizations in the future.

Frank A. Williams says farmers are interested in dollars and cents. If reliable predictions could be made so that everybody doesn't have hogs (or eggs or any other product) to market at the same time, and thus depress the price level, it would help stabilize prices and stability is one of our greatest needs. Marketing Boards would help a great deal.

An F.U.A. member said "I was surprised how many local people didn't know of the implications of the Crows' Nest Pass Agreement — especially the younger members."

Canadian Wheat and Flour to Colombo Plan Countries

The Minister of Trade and Commerce announced that an agreement has been reached with the Indian government for the sale of 400,000 tons (about 15 million bushels) of wheat, to be shipped during the winter and early spring months. Payment will be made in seven equal annual instalments beginning three years after shipment, and at an interest rate of approximately 4½ per cent.

Announcement was also made of a grant of wheat valued at \$7 million to India and \$2 million to Pakistan and of flour valued at \$1 million to Ceylon, from the Colombo Plan funds.

The Minister stated that wheat would be available to other Colombo Plan countries on the same terms as those offered to India. It is not the intention to offer long term credit in ordinary commercial markets.

Parliament will be asked to vote approximately \$30 or \$35 million to be loaned to Colombo Plan countries for the purchase of Canadian wheat and flour, and an additional \$15 million as an outright grant for the same purpose. — House of Commons Debates, Jan. 8, 1958. (Notes on Canadian Agriculture).

DR. J. P. BOWLAND REPORTS

Experimental work in swine at the University of Alberta is now being designed so that interrelationships between breeding and feeding may be studied. Our breeding experiments are being extended to include the Landrace, to study its crossing ability with the Yorkshire and Lacombe and with crosses of these latter two breeds. Our Tamworth crosses are still being continued.

A comparison of indoor versus outdoor raising of pigs was initiated this summer. This involves farrowing, growing and finishing hogs on pasture under climatic conditions such as prevail in Alberta using only unheated colony houses, that is maintaining a low overhead on buildings.

Further antibiotic feed supplement studies are being carried out with particular studies in Hygromix, a new antibiotic product, which has been reported to be useful in the elimination of Roundworms in swine.

She's So Right!

Asked if she belonged to a co-operative, the indignant woman retorted, "No, sir! We do not! That co-op belongs to us."

NEED FOR MORE CAPITAL

More capital in the hands of farm people is an urgent need — was voiced by Barney Johnson of the Saskatchewan Credit Co-op, at the A.C.W.A. annual meeting held recently, in Edmonton. If co-ops are to expand to meet the needs of agriculture then the farm people need a set-up where capital could be accumulated for expansion purposes. It was stated that at one time a co-op could be organized with capital of \$700.00. Now the requirements are at least \$50,000.00.

In serving the communities the trend is towards larger centres. The small communities are going. The little red school house and the community hall have disappeared. It was in these small community centres that the co-op movement blossomed to its present stature. The little red school house is gone. A new situation is at hand.

There is an urgent need for an organization which could accumulate the money deposited by farm people. This money could be used for new projects. Your writer was advised so, in Montana, last spring. It appears that capital for expansion is a universal need. It is not that farm people have not the money, but it is the case where they have no facilities to invest or deposit the cash.

We know of at least one opportunity where farm people would be most happy to invest rather than give away, but it seems hard to set up a national machine big enough to be self-operative. This is something that should have been done long ago. However, we have not started yet. What is the plan? It is the F.U.A. pension or savings plan. How much money do we need? Somewhere between 5 and 10 million dollars. There are 2 or 3 things we could do quickly that would spell a big difference.

BIGGEST PROBLEM

Today, the biggest problem in the Canadian economy is maintaining enough consumer demand to keep pace with our enormous productive capacity, maintenance of consumer demand not only in Canada but among the buyers of Canadian products. For many years the chief Canadian export was wheat. What can Canadian people do to help the buying nations? The appointment of several farm representatives on Canadian Trade Missions may be a start of thought in that direction.

For years the Canadian Bureau of Statistics has been reporting that our purchases have been much bigger than our exports. The consequences of such a trend has resulted in the present-day impasse.

Ohaton Man Wins U.K. Scholarship

Two young Canadian farmers, Stewart Van Petten of Ohaton, Alberta, and Chas. Gallagher, of Centreville, N.B. have been awarded the Lord Nuffield Foundation farm scholarships for 1958, providing them with a six months' sojourn for a study of British agriculture.

Stewart Van Petten, the successful candidate from Ohaton, Alberta, is 39 years of age, married and has a family. He is a former 4-H club member, having won the efficiency prize in grain in his district. He is also a graduate of the School of Agriculture at Olds, Alberta.

He has been farming for 20 years, operates a farm of 500 acres, on which he raises both livestock and grain. Mr. Van Petten has been an active leader in community activities and farm organization.

The awards have been announced by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at Ottawa, which sponsors the project in Canada on behalf of the Foundation. The young men were chosen from some 11 applicants from seven provinces, all sponsored by their respective provincial federations of agriculture.

The two young farmers will leave at the end of February for overseas. They will be required to work for a month on a selected British farm, the balance of their scholarship period being spent in a tour of the United Kingdom, with visits to agricultural exhibitions, livestock centres, agricultural colleges, etc. for special studies.

FARMERS' MAIN JOB FOR 1958

The following is an O.F.U. statement issued on request and broadcast over CBL on Jan. 1st, subject: "What is the most important thing farmers should do in 1958."

Between the years 1951 and 1954, Canadian farmers' net income DROPPED by 48 per cent —expenses ROSE by 22 per cent. Agriculture's share of the national income dropped by 33½ per cent. Farm income showed a slight improvement but has not recovered from that low position SINCE.

Because of this, Canada lost 48,000 farmers in the same period. Most of the remaining farmers are taking part time jobs in order to maintain their farms.

All organized groups during this period had substantially INCREASED earnings.

The most important action farmers can take in 1958 is to ORGANIZE into a direct dues paying membership farm organization and protect their interests as others have done.

The Alberta Cattle Improvement Policy

Several changes were made in the Cattle Improvement Policy effective January 1st, 1958.

This policy will now operate in two phases designated as A and B. Policy A is a continuation of bull purchases on orders forwarded to the Live Stock Branch, and also provides for a farmer to select a bull from a breeder subject to approval of the animal by a member of the Live Stock Branch. Policy B is a phase that will apply to contributor bull sales.

Any bonafide farmer, except a pure bred breeder, is eligible for assistance in the purchase of a bull under either policy. An application received after January 1st, 1958, will be a "first" application. A total of two bulls may be obtained but two breeding seasons must elapse between first and second application. The two bulls may be taken under Policy A or Policy B or one under each.

The basic rate of assistance is 10% of purchase price to a maximum of fifty dollars. Should a municipality become a pure bred sire area, the rate of assistance would be a 15% of purchase price to a maximum of \$75.00 for residents of the area for the first three years. This is under Policy A only. Existing pure bred sire areas will receive 15% assistance to January 1st, 1959 and will then revert to 10%.

Policy B is intended to apply to recognized contributor bull sales. The farmer will buy his bull, settle with the sale association in full and then if he so desires, can make application to the Department of Agriculture for a bonus. Eligibility of bulls on which a bonus will be paid is established by a committee with breed association and Departmental representation. The sale association makes application to the Department of Agriculture to have Policy B applied to their sale. When applied, only approved bulls will be sold through the sale. Disposal of bulls not approved is determined by the sale association.

LEONARD D. NESBITT

The readers of the Organized Farmer are glad to hear that Leonard D. Nesbitt, who has conducted Farm Publicity for Alberta Wheat Pool in Alberta for 35 years, is still active and interested in farm affairs. At the present time he is producing a radio program from Calgary. It is his intention to be of help to farm organizations and the F.U.A. is included on his list.

FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT SALES IN 1956

Canadian farmers spent more on new farm implements and equipment and on repair parts in 1956 than in 1955. Wholesale value of sales of new implements and equipment rose 11.5 per cent to \$170,767,000 from \$153,124,000 in 1955. Despite this gain, last year's sales were sharply below earlier year's sales which included the following: \$235,620,000 in 1951; \$250,277,000 in 1952; and \$238,050,000 in 1953. Sales of repair parts, also at wholesale, climbed nearly 12 per cent to \$31,825,000 from \$28,452,000. Average retail mark-up is 23.7 per cent for new farm implements and equipment and 36.6 per cent for repair parts.—D.B.S. Daily Bulletin, Jan. 2, 1958. (Notes on Canadian Agriculture).

LIVESTOCK

WORLD MEAT CONSUMPTION IN 1956

Meat consumption per caput during 1956 was relatively high in the world although, as usual, it varied greatly from country to country. Argentina topped all other countries, averaging 255 pounds. Consumption in Australia and New Zealand also averaged over 200 pounds per person. In these countries beef, veal, lamb and mutton weight heavily in the national diet. Gains in consumption per person since 1946-50 have generally been greater for European countries as both imports and domestic production have risen. Western Germany, France and the United Kingdom particularly have stepped up their consumption rates, consuming (per caput) 105 pounds, 128 pounds and 132 pounds, respectively. United States per caput consumption was estimated at 167 pounds and that of Canada at 148 pounds.—Spot News from Abroad.

WHAT COMMODITIES are you mainly interested in?—

	Per cent of Forums Reporting
Pork	61
Beef	59
Poultry, Poultry Products	57
Dairy Products	50
Eggs	26
Mixed Farm—Grain, Beef, Pork	20
Grain	17
Vegetables	15
Milk	13
Butter, Cream	12
Fruit	10
Potatoes	7
Meat Products	7
Lamb, Wool, Mutton	5
Other suggestions:	
Lumber, Cheese, Maple Products, Soya	
Beans, Sugar Beets, Honey, Mink (Furs)	15
No answer	1

PRODUCTION RESTRICTIONS

"Production Restrictions" was the first topic to be dealt with by Farm Forums across Canada during the January series of discussions on Modern Marketing.

Seventy-seven per cent of the Farm Forums thought that there should be no production restrictions on the products they produce. On the other hand there were quite a number of forums who were in favor of the quota system used with fluid milk to indirectly control production.

Of those in favor of production restrictions the majority thought that if controls are to be effective they must be compulsory rather than voluntary. Conservation was the method of production restriction most favored by the Forums. Of equal importance according to the Forums are acreage controls for canning crops and grains, and storage of surpluses or food banks.

High costs involved and difficulties in administration were the reasons given by 21% of the Forums for their dislike of production restrictions. Seventeen per cent felt that with production control they would lose some of their independence. The humanitarian view that, while there is a world food shortage no country should restrict production, was held by 16% of the forums.—News Release, Jan. 17, 1958, National Farm Radio forum.

THE POUND AND THE WORLD

Britain lives by foreign trade. It must import, and therefore export, or die. Hence its constant concern to remove impediments to the free movement of goods and payments. For only in freedom can trade grow, and the more trade grows the better chance has Britain to earn by its exports the foreign exchange it must have to pay for its essential imports.

One of the things that frees world trade and enables it to grow is an acceptable means of payment on which people can rely. That is what the pound sterling has been and still is. It is a fact that about half the world's international trade is transacted in sterling—not only the trade of the sterling area but much of the rest of the world besides. As a prominent German banker has recently observed: "The fact that world trade is still being mainly invoiced and paid for in sterling is an eminently desirable feature for the Federal Republic, and also for other countries on the European continent."

CANADA GIVES MILLIONS IN MILK (From The Albertan)

Canada is making 30,000,000 pounds of dry skimmed milk available to various international relief agencies carrying out large-scale feeding programs for mothers and children.

The commodity, purchased under the federal government's agricultural prices support program at the support price of 17 cents a pound, cost the Canadian taxpayers \$5,100,000.

CAR INSURANCE SHOULD BE COMPULSORY

(Star Weekly Editorial)

This year legislation designed to provide compensation for the innocent victims of financially irresponsible motorists will be laid before the legislatures of at least 11 American states and Canadian provinces. Seven will be asked to set up an unsatisfied judgment fund similar to that of Ontario. Three will be asked to adopt some form of compulsory automobile insurance. One will be asked to amend the existing compulsory insurance law to provide for an unsatisfied judgment fund as well.

This sudden flurry of legislation reflects the growing concern of governments at the increasing number of serious highway accidents in which the person responsible has neither insurance nor assets from which the victim can collect damages. In Ontario there were 729 such cases last year. In New York state the number runs between 2,000 and 3,000 a year. It is becoming a serious problem.

Ontario has had its unsatisfied judgment fund since 1947, maintained by collecting \$1 additional from all persons granted driver's or chauffeur's licenses. Effective January 1, motorists who cannot produce a certificate of insurance when they apply for their license plates will be charged an extra \$5, payable into the fund. New York is the leading exponent of compulsory insurance.

When the Ontario act was before the legislature for amendment suggestions were made that rather than charge uninsured drivers a \$5 fee, a compulsory insurance law be introduced which would have had the effect of reducing claims on the fund. This would have been preferable, for experience has demonstrated that neither an unsatisfied judgment fund alone nor compulsory insurance alone provides full protection. Compulsory insurance does not meet the case of the hit-and-run driver, the uninsured driver from another province or state, or accidents involving stolen cars, a defect that Governor Harriman of New York is asking the legislature to correct. On the other hand, an unsatisfied judgment fund is cumbersome in operation, slow to settle claims, and cannot be built up enough to satisfy claims without charging more than people are willing to pay.

The real weakness of any plan at present in effect, and this includes Saskatchewan's, too, is that compensation is not high enough. Judgments of \$50,000 are not unusual and recently an Ontario court awarded \$125,000 to a boy blinded in an automobile accident. While no scheme likely to be adopted would assure payment of a judgment of that size, a compulsory insurance law combined with an unsatisfied judgment fund could assure complete coverage up to, say \$50,000, without onerous cost.

* * *

(We have inserted this editorial because it follows very closely what F.U.A. has in its policy. Check your F.U.A. policy.)

F. U. A. Bonspiel at Redwater



Second Annual F.U.A. Bonspiel

The F.U.A. membership bonspiel sub-district 1, District 6 will be held at Redwater on March 14 and 15.

The curling rink has 4 sheets of artificial ice, lunch counter and club room.

Men's event is a 16 rink spiel, two events.

Grand challenge is a trophy presented by sub-district 1, district 6.

Next event is a consumer co-op. All prizes for this event are donated by Alberta Co-operative Wholesale Association which includes the farm supply department, the feed division at North Edmonton, the co-op store on 118 Avenue and 89 Street in Edmonton. Thanks to A.C.W.A. for generous support.

Ladies 8 rink spiel will be held in conjunction with this event. Ladies are requested to send in entries.

Banquet is on Friday, March 15. It will start at 6:00 p.m.

At this banquet the committee hopes to have Mr. A. W. Platt present.

Men in charge: Henry Wacovich, Redwater; Wilf Oliver, R.R. 4, Edmonton; Earl Toane, Gibbons.

Send entries to committee as above.

Entry fee \$16.00 a rink for men, \$12.00 for ladies. This fee includes admission to banquet.

Last year's winners were as follows: Clem Boisjoli, skip; Ed Courchesne, 3rd; Lodis Lamoureux, 2nd; Herb Hall, lead. The rink represented Gibbons local.

HANDICRAFT LIST FOR THE F.W.U.A. CONVENTION, 1958

Class 1—Sewing (3 only)

- (a) Garment with smocking.
- (b) Practical house dress.
- (c) Bib-apron.
- (d) Half-apron.
- (e) Child's garment remade from used wool or similar material.
- (f) Girl's best dress or lady's afternoon dress (size 12 or over). Any material.
- (g) Housecoat, kimona or duster coat.
- (h) Pyjamas (6 years and over).
- (i) Sport shirt, short sleeves.
- (j) Jacket, blazer or coat, lined or half lined.
- (k) Lady's or girl's winter skirt.
- (l) Doll's wardrobe.
- (m) Machine sewn bedspread.

Class 2—Knitting (2 only)

- (a) Men's or boys' cardigan—light weight.
- (b) Women's or girls' cardigan—light weight
- (c) Adult or child's heavy sweater.
- (d) Socks—plain color, fancy stitch.
- (e) Socks—any pattern, 2 or more colors.
- (f) Shrug, shawl or stole.
- (g) Mitts—any age, any design.
- (h) Child's dress or suit—2 to 5 years.
- (i) Infants' garments—2 articles.
- (j) Knitted lace—edging, doily or any article (fine thread No. 30#-60#).
- (k) Knitted bed jacket.

Class 3—Crochet (2 only)

- (a) Dinner Cloth 54" or more—all lace. not coarser than size 20 thread.
- (b) Crochet edging or trim.
- (c) Crochet purse or hat—straw or other thread.
- (d) Crocheted inserts on linen—not corners.
- (e) Crochet edge on 2 handkerchiefs.
- (f) Crochet doily or tray cloth, thread not coarser than 30.
- (g) Crochet bed jacket.

Class 4—Embroidery and Textile Painting (2 only)

- (a) Embroidery in white.
- (b) Embroidery in color.
- (c) Embroidery in cutwork.
- (d) Embroidery in cross stitch—not framed.
- (e) Textile painting—any article using textile paint and brush.
- (f) Drawn fabric embroidery or needle-weaving.

Class 5—Rug (1 only)

- (a) Hooked rug—new material.
- (b) Hooked rug—salvage material.
- (c) Braided rug.
- (d) Any other variety—new material.
- (e) Any other variety—old material.

Class 6—Loom Weaving (1 only)

- (a) Small article, e.g., bag, cushion cover, scarf or runner.
- (b) Large article, e.g., bedspread, drapery, fabric length, rug, etc.

Class 7—Quilt (1 only)

- (a) Quilt, patchwork—hand quilted.
- (b) Quilt, appliqued—hand quilted.
- (c) Cotton crib cover—hand quilted, washable type padding.

Class 8—Leathercraft and Copper Work (2 only)

- (a) Leather purse—not tooled or carved.
- (b) Tooled article.
- (c) Carved article.
- (d) Gloves.
- (e) Copper tooled article, e.g., framed picture, planter, lamp stand, tray, etc.

Class 9—Needlepoint and Petitpoint (1 only)

- (a) Needlepoint—not mounted.
- (b) Petitpoint—mounted.

Class 10—Painting (1 only)

- (a) Framed, painted in oils.
- (b) Framed, painted in watercolors.
- (c) Framed picture embroidered, not needlepoint or petitpoint.

Class 11—Other Handiwork (1 only)

- (a) Cushion cover.
- (b) Stuffed toy.
- (c) Basketry—any article.
- (d) Machine embroidery—any article.
- (e) Machine quilting—any article, e.g., bedroom slippers, boudoir accessory.
- (f) Felt article.
- (g) Afghan—knitted or crocheted.

Instructions

1. Any local may exhibit 6 articles or less from any of the 11 classes listed.
2. No prize-winning exhibit from a previous FWUA Exhibit may be entered in 1958.
3. One only means that **only one article** may be exhibited from that whole class.
4. Points for large articles such as rugs, quilts, crochet table cloths and large woven articles will be 10 for first, 7 for second, and 4 for

third. Points for other articles 5, 3 and 1. A modified Danish system of judging will be used allowing the judge to award more than one article in a placing and/or award a higher or lower number of points according to quality of workmanship and design or article.

5. No fancy work is to be mounted on colored paper; mounting may be sent for articles so that they can be mounted after they are judged.
6. No work is to be mounted unless specified, e.g., framed picture, in which case the entry is judged for the final effect of framing and frame.
7. Paintings on Commercial Number Charts disqualified.
8. Tags will be sent to all FWUA locals in October; joint locals please request tags from Central Office at this time.

Help Yourself to F.U.A. Benefits

We hope you are not forgetting our objective of an F.U.A. Car Insurance Pool in 1958. We are trying to improve our service to you as quickly as possible. Won't you do your part by making enquiries of any F.U.A. official in your vicinity, or direct from Co-operative Fire & Casualty, 402 Northern Hardware Building, Edmonton.

Agents have been appointed in the following areas:

A. B. Falla, Sedgewick.

P. A. Guenard, Hardisty.

Stanley Perka, Round Hill.

Edwin Hunter, Winfield.

R. E. Ewart, R.R. 1, Wetaskiwin.

Agents names will be printed in the Organized Farmer as they are appointed.

Ivy Taylor (Mrs. W. C.)

Ed. Nelson.

On page 16 Mrs. W. C. Taylor suggests that F.U.A., F.W.U.A. and Junior section prepare comments on Education for the Royal Commission on Education. It is recommended that all such briefs be submitted to central office for perusal. The central office will advise you if your opinions are in line with F.U.A. policy. We do not wish to curb anybody's opinion, but there should be a certain amount of co-ordination of thought. So please co-operate.

OPEN FORUM

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. **A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words** and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

I would like the privilege of a little space in the Organized Farmer for a few comments on the F.U.A. convention held last December in Edmonton.

I had the pleasure of attending, for the fourth consecutive time, the F.U.A. convention held in Edmonton, and was very much inspired by the speakers, and pleased that there was very close harmony among the delegates in their deliberations. I think we have moved closer together towards the goal which the F.U.A. is aiming for. I would like to commend the president and the executive for their untiring work. There is certainly proof that the various committees did good work during the year, and we certainly owe it to them to help, from our local level, to bring the desired results for which some of these committees have worked formulating plans to work with. I believe at this convention we, as delegates, unanimously agreed that membership is very important, and moved towards the idea that compulsory membership may be the answer—to build a strong union for the protection of the farmer. Personally, I am all for it.

The car insurance committee did a good job to bring forth plans whereby we can have car insurance at cost if we get a designated number to insure. I, as a sub-director, suggest—let us get busy and see that every local in all the respective sub-districts make it a project to urge their members to insure their vehicles in this car insurance pool. I think we can "put it over" if every local tries this. Already we have two locals in our "sub-district No. 1" who have indicated their intention to make this their project, to encourage their local members to take out insurance with the F.U.A. Pool.

I was also very impressed by the report of the electrical committee. Let's put it over.

Yours very truly,

C. A. EVASKEVICH.

Box 38, Hythe, Alta.

FARM TAXATION

As a rural assessor I would like to make a few comments about a letter signed "Georgist" in the Edmonton Journal of December 23.

This "Georgist" went all the way back to the middle of the eighteenth century to find a champion to support his single land-tax ideas. The truth about those unhappy days for at least seventy-five per cent of the population was that physical taxation was taken out of unfranchised men, women and children to amass the untaxed fortunes of the few by the investment of which the so-called industrial revolution was financed.

What "Georgist" is saying when he quotes Samuel Johnson's philosophy, as recorded by his enamored biographer, James Boswell, is "tax the poor physically and financially to enrich the wealthy."

Actually, that idea is just the opposite to the Henry George idea which was presented as a means of compelling rich land owners to disgorge their privileged land-owning rights for the benefit of what he reasoned was the poor landless majority.

I suggest that both these ideas dating back to one hundred to two hundred years are today absolutely out of date.

Referring to present conditions in Alberta I feel it should be clearly stated that farm assessments are, if properly assessed, made on an improvement basis now.

Previously to the year 1938, farm lands were assessed on a non-improvement basis but according to the new Assessment Act of 1938, the basis of assessing farms was changed from what the land was supposed to have been as uninhabited prairie to the land as it had been improved up to the date the assessment was made. It is quite true that structural improvements such as are deemed necessary for the operation of the farm are still exempt from taxation but the actual improvement of the land itself made since it was forest or bush or undrained sloughs is now assessable one hundred per cent. In addition to this a farmer is assessed for all his unimproved land on a basis far higher than its actual remunerative value.

In making a comparison between a farmer's taxation and that of all others it seems to be reasonable to suggest that, if a farmer is taxed for each acre which produces and all other acres that might be improved, so that they could produce at some future date, then it would be equally reasonable to tax a non-agriculturist for all the customers or clients that he now has, and even further than that, for all the customers and clients that he might be expected to obtain at some future date.

As I have said before the only reasonable

system of taxation is one depending upon the taxpayer's ability to pay.

In conclusion, may I point out that the farmer is taxed at present by the most conclusive kind of improvement tax that exists in Alberta. To suggest that a farmer is taxed on a non-improvement basis is absolutely incorrect.

JOHN F. MILNER.

Stony Plain Road.

Dear Editor:

The price of things the farmers have to buy are not regulated according to their cost of production, but according to the farmers' ability to pay. The margin between the cost of this production and the price the farmers have to pay is the margin of profit the manufacturers get out of the exchange. This profit margin, whatever it may be or wherever it may come from — farmers or workers in other lines of production and distribution — this and this alone is what motivates our capitalist system of production and distribution.

Whatever the farmers get in the way of income can be taken away from them by the business interests they have to deal with. It would, of course, be poor business to starve the farmers in general off the land. What I am leading up to is this, if the U.G.G. and the Wheat Pools paid out more than they do in patronage dividends there is nothing to prevent a corresponding rise in prices, and this addition in farm income going on to the business interests. Under these circumstances it would be folly for the leaders of these co-ops, the U.G.G. and the Wheat Pools, to pay out sums in patronage dividends that would by any chance leave them short of expense funds for themselves comparable to that of leading executives in other such large undertakings, and ample funds for advertising, a good amount of which may be seen in the Farm Union papers across the country. Payment for this, we may assume, goes a long way towards paying the publishing cost of these farm union papers. The question is, do those who pay this call the tune?

"Ned Gumbo"

9718 - 101 Street

Sir:

In your circular letter of January 20th you write locals to discuss any special livestock problem which they may choose. The president of the Dalemead local is away and we are not having meetings so what I am about to say will be my own opinion only.

It seems to me the cattle business is a mainstay of prairie agriculture today as a cash revenue producer and it will probably continue so for some time to come, unless some unforeseen circumstances upset the apple cart. The wheat industry has huge problems to contend with and the possibilities for their solution are so limited, that we need to take every precaution to safeguard the stability of the cattle business.

In this connection I am somewhat concerned about the apparent lack of feed reserves in the country, if

we should run into a period of dry summers and cold winters. The country seems to have been living from hand to mouth for feed supplies in spite of years of generous production — and just missing calamity by a hair's breadth.

In the days of stook threshing a farmer could have several years' supply of straw stacks on hand which did not represent a direct charge against the cattle business and did not add anything to his overhead.

Our uncertain harvest weather of late years has not afforded much opportunity to bale straw. Furthermore, baling is a highly expensive operation to use for a feed reserve, which may be used a long time in the future, or possibly not at all. To make matters worse, there is no certainty that baled feed will keep in good condition much more than one season.

To sum it up, the machinery companies and high priced labor have gotten the country into an expensive and unreliable method of harvesting forage crops that simply is not good enough for an industry as essential to western agriculture as the cattle business is at the present time.

I also think the farmers' union and the department of agriculture should get together on a careful survey of the pasture and forage crop acreages in the province, to judge whether they are adequate if the country runs into adverse seasons. Since the cattle business has been one of the best ways of raising ready cash I suspect a lot of stockmen have been using up their grass as they went along, and a few weeks of dry weather might start a run of thin cattle on the market more than it could absorb or more than the limited cattle transport facilities could get out of the country. It seems to me there should be an immediate reassessment of the pasture and forage crops situation, with a view to drawing up a definite seeding program for next spring.

The farm organizations are always taking to Ottawa



Mrs. Laura Gibeau, F.W.U.A. director for district 5, explains her favorite recipe from the F.W.U.A. cook book to Mrs. Williams of Sangudo, at the F.U.A. workshop.

general recommendations for soil conservation measures, or a soil bank, but never seem to have a clear-cut policy ready for immediate application.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) H H. Phillips, Secretary
Dalemead Local No. 1009.

We certainly need some grass and feed reserves How can we accomplish this objective?

January Membership Record

DISTRICT	Jan. Men	To Date Total	Jan. Women	To Date Women	Jan. Assoc.	To Date Assoc.	Jan. Jrs.	To Date Jrs.	To Date Total
Dist. 1	319	929	81	270	1	1	66	182	1382
Dist. 2	156	769	52	194	---	---	19	121	1084
Dist. 3	267	1323	68	313	---	---	58	216	1852
Dist. 4	430	1652	112	422	---	---	87	374	2448
Dist. 5	304	1946	137	412	2	5	76	261	1624
Dist. 6	276	2390	70	834	---	7	49	355	3586
Dist. 7	360	2184	113	634	---	2	36	313	3133
Dist. 8	316	1718	104	439	---	---	49	258	2415
Dist. 9	364	1850	128	520	2	2	59	259	2631
Dist. 10	665	1855	181	448	1	9	68	177	2489
Dist. 11	241	900	88	337	3	8	38	122	1367
Dist. 12	537	1422	192	520	1	4	65	222	2168
Dist. 13	152	501	73	203	2	3	22	66	773
Dist. 14	552	1037	124	258	2	2	56	122	1419
Total	4939	19476	1523	5804	14	43	748	3048	28371

F.U.A. LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Tees F.U.A. Local No. 985 says: "We approve of the FUA Action Program and suggest the following addition: "Support the Co-ops but farm member delegations should inspect plants at irregular intervals and check all operations."

"Know your district agriculturist." "Join the Film Council and show educational film." "Support 'On to Ottawa' drive."

Here is their suggestion on policy: "That P.F.A.A. be paid on individual basis regarding hail and frost." "We disapprove of farm improvement property tax. Would rather support a sales tax if there is no alternative."

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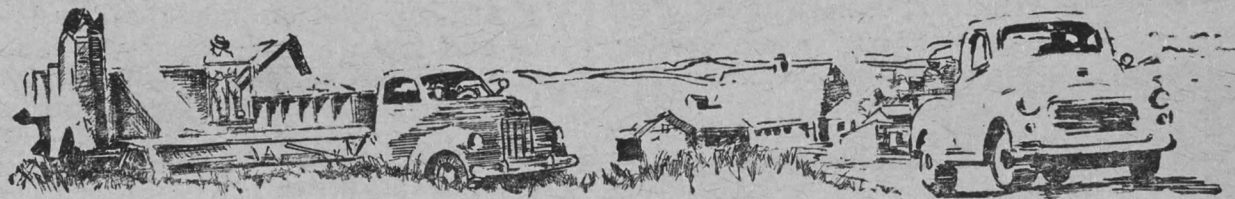
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HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO THINK HOW?

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